

THE POCAHONTAS TIMES

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CALVIN W. PRICE, EDITOR.
THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1918

Last Friday morning twenty-seven colored soldiers assembled at Marlinton and took their departure for the war. The hosts of friends and relations that gathered at the railway station constitute an animated and inspiring sight. During the last year the county-seat has witnessed many assemblies of the people who come here to see the young men go forth to war. It is a new experience, and yet the people take it as a part of life's work. They are calm, collected and determined. It is a cheerful holiday crowd as a rule, though you could hardly speak of any of them as happy, except the soldiers themselves who are invariably in the highest spirits. Those who are left behind are the ones who seem to bear the weight of being severed and who are oppressed with the feeling of the danger of war. Young men of military age look on danger in a very different way from the way that women and older men regard it. There is something in our natures that makes the young men court danger and adventure. It no doubt lies at the root of human life, and accounts for the existence of human beings on the earth, for without it, the species would long ago have perished. Danger is the spur that urges young men to war. Without it war would lose all its attractions for them.

In this county the custom was quickly established to see the soldiers off on the day set. They are mobilized at the war office; leaders are appointed and the roll made up; the ladies provide each soldier with a comfort kit; food boxes are packed; one of the soldiers carries a big flag to the depot and the soldiers assemble under its folds; the crowds of people stand packed around them; the train moves away and the men go shouting to the war.

The whole program was faithfully and enthusiastically carried out last week when the colored soldiers left. There was no difference except that the multitude assembled was dark skinned. The old grandfathers in Israel were there leaning upon their staffs. The fathers and brothers came out. The mothers and young sisters, sweethearts and wives. The soldiers were well seen off and the train bore them away to take part in the greatest effort put forth by men in defense of their ideals, and for the protection of the lives and happiness of that part of the population which is incapable of taking care of its rights and liberties.

It came to us then, the realization that the American plan of government is the one that has succeeded in bringing about a state of society that is most nearly perfect of all plans meant for the peace, happiness and protection of mankind. Here was a race of people not long out of Africa which has reached its highest stage of development as a part of a country of equality in law. Nothing like it has ever been recorded in history. White Americans and Black Americans form the nation. They exist in the same country and under the same law. They are all prosperous, happy and contented. They know no oppression. The reign of law rests lightly and comfortably on them. There is nothing irksome in the demands of our good government. Yet when war comes, each race is ready and willing to lay down their lives in defense of a government that means so much to mankind.

No such free land was known prior to the American experiment. The old world considered that a free land was impossible. They knew nothing of equality. America having succeeded and having become a shining light and an example to the oppressed of other lands there were two ways open to the sovereignties of Europe. They could either adopt the plan of the successful experiment or they could fight to put it down. England and France chose by easy stages to adopt the American plan so far as they could without the unlimited free spaces of America, but Germany fought the idea of equality and when the Kaiser found that the growing demands of the common people of Germany infringed upon the idea of the prerogatives of the crown, he brought on such a war as was intended to kill and stifle the cravings for liberty on the American model for hundreds of years. In doing this the Kaiser was really making war upon his own people. He thought he was using a kind of finesse that would insure a world dominion under the old plan in which royalty was sacred.

It seems to us that the President has a clear conception of this war on the German people.

It is an open question, whether the Kaiser had at first designs directly upon the subjugation of America. But there is no question that the war having prolonged itself to the point when Germany faced economic ruin, that he deliberately set out to make

America pay for the war. In doing so he awoke the giant. The Colossus of the North will crush him. He had no conception of the power of this great country where every man is a man. He has set in motion a power to destroy him. Think what this country has done and then consider that there ten thousand such organizations working in unison, and know that the Kaiser's fate is sealed.

The lust of dominion and the pride of royalty burned with a flame so fierce in the breast of the Kaiser, that it leads his undoing.

The Mississippi River in time of flood cannot be held, and that mighty power is the accumulation of water from little springs.

Here is the secret of the strength of the United States which the Kaiser has touched and threatened: "Equal and exact justice to all men, of whatever state or persuasion, religious or political; peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations,—entangling alliances with none; the support of the State Governments in all their rights, as the most competent administrations for our domestic concerns, and the surest bulwarks against anti-republican tendencies; the preservation of the General Government in its whole constitutional vigor, as the sheet anchor of our peace at home and safety abroad; freedom of religion; freedom of the press; freedom of person under the protection of habeas corpus; and trials by jury impartially selected,—these principles form the bright constellation which has gone before us and guided our steps through an age of revolution and reformation."

And the time has come in our plenitude and our power, when we are called upon to assert our might in behalf of the humanity of the world.

And over and above all is that moral power, which even in war, we have the word of Napoleon, is to physical power as three parts out of four.

Christus bene coepta secundet.

At this time the Germans are being pushed back towards their own country. They are progressing backward. They had advanced towards Paris until they were within forty-eight miles of that city. They had crossed the Marne. Then the Allies started to roll them back, and they went back across the river and fought a retreating fight. The first year of the war saw a retreat from the Marne. It was not known to the Allies at the time but that first retreat was a rout and panic. The German soldiers had met their first reverse in what was to be a holiday trip to Paris to overcome France. The German soldiers ran in overpowering fear with their tongues hanging out, and they bore down and ran over officers who stood before them and tried to stay the panic and rally and reform the men. The German press say that the Marne is not much of a river any way and that the armies crossed it and not liking the new country that they found there decided to fall back. All we hope for is that they will continue to fall back until they reach their own country once more and decide to be good.

The Kaiser is still for peace with salvage.

Your breath first kindled the dead coal of wars, And brought in matter that should feed this fire; And now 'tis far too huge to be blown out.

With that same weak wind which kindled it. The other day Soissons, one of those places in Europe which have become familiar to the eye of the newspaper reader seemed as far behind the German line as though it was on the Rhine itself, has been occupied by our troops. Soissons is a town about the size of Staunton. It is one of the fortified towns of Caesar's wars. In it is the tomb of Lohthaire, the Emperor of the West or of Rome. It has always been the place of much hard fighting. It was between Soissons and Rheims, located about as far apart as Staunton and Harrisonburg, that the Germans made the advance toward Paris and it was through the same gateway that they worked back before the advance of the Allied armies.

The newspapers hold out the prospect of driving the Germans back to the Hindenburg line by the time the snow flies, and of driving them home to Germany next spring.

The other day a bare-footed boy at Violet was using a log to cut kindling wood on. A snake under the log reached out and bit the boy on his foot between the toes. He ran to the house and told his mother that he thought that a snake had bitten him. She went to the log and turned it over and found that red headed horror called the copperhead lying there which she killed. Then with great wisdom she bound a cord around her boy's leg so tightly that it disappeared under the skin and used other remedies that came to her mind, and no doubt saved the child's life, as it was a long distance to a doctor. The little fellow was carefully nursed and

tended and the last account we had of him was that he was lying on a pallet on the floor and beginning to take interest in life again as well as he could for his foot that was swelled up as tight as a drum. With all the remedies for snake bite, probably the most effective when the bite is on the hand or the foot is to cut off the circulation with a tourniquet, and then cut open the wound to see if it will drain, and then cauterize with a hot iron. There are probably other and better methods but all these are in reach at the moment the accident occurs. To be bitten by a venomous snake constitutes a great shock to the nervous system in itself and it also has a powerful effect on the mind, so much so that persons have been known to die from fright. One of the best things that can be done is to suck the wound, though we have been told that this cannot be done so well for the reason that the powerful acid of snake poison puckers the mouth so that it will not perform its function, and as to spitting out the poison, that is well nigh impossible. This from a man who had performed that signal, heroic service for a friend who had been bitten by a rattlesnake.

It must be admitted that the Greenbrier River is the home of the copperhead. It seems to stay close by the river and to be correspondingly scarcer as the distance from the river increases. It is a snake about three feet long, with a copper colored head. It is plainly marked on the body with a couple of dozen or so of dark spots shaped like a Y. The copper of its head is not so pronounced after death as it is in life. From personal experience, we believe that the snake has the power of changing the color of its head. That is when excited or angry it glows like a red hot coal, and after death it changes to a pale copper color. If we are right about this then here is a snake that gets red in the face and blushes. The occasions that we have observed this were not ones in which calm observation was possible. Two times have we moved over the copperhead with a scythe in trimming places by the swamp where the machine could not go. On both, the reptile raised straight up with his head as red as fire. Not red like copper, but red like red flannel. Both snakes were killed and the head got pale though it still retained a copper color. The Y shaped marks are a better sign to identify the snake than the copper colored head. There is a frightfulness about the appearance of a copperhead that does not belong to the ordinary harmless snake. Once we were driving an indolent horse attached to a buggy, and by the side of road lay a big copperhead. The horse saw it and went wild, though ordinarily he was about as tame an old brute as ever was. We succeeded in pacifying the horse after he had shown all the symptoms of great and overpowering terror. All the time the copperhead remained in the edge of the road watching us, and stayed there until we got out and killed it with the buggy whip. By the way the smaller the stick the more fatal to the snake. A switch is better than a club in killing snakes.

We are further of the opinion that copperheads do not travel far. They probably have a range of territory about the size of an ordinary garden, and when they do not find something to eat they are able to do without. They eat nothing in the cold months for they hide and hibernate, and in the course of a summer if they pick up a few grubs and a toad or two, that suffices for them. They probably eat their own skins. About as often as the average citizen goes to the barber shop to get his hair cut, so does the copperhead shed his skin. About the time the skin has grown thick and old is the time that it is most dangerous to man. The skin always covers the eyes forming a transparent shield for them, and as the skin gets thick, the vision is impaired, and it is probably for this reason that the snake proceeds to loosen it up and wriggle out of it. Anyway the skin comes off of the eyes first. We never have seen a snake shedding its skin, but it is certain that it does not pull it over his head like a man pulling off a sweater, but on the contrary, it creeps out of it, and then in most cases turns and eats it up, and thus supplies about the only waste that the snake is subjected to.

We have never known a fatal case of copperhead bite but that is because there is always an effort made to counteract the effect, for we have not the slightest doubt that the copperhead has poison enough to kill a man. It is not like the cobra of India whose bite is almost always fatal. As that philosopher, Mark Twain, remarks, the bite of the cobra kills, where the bite of the rattlesnake merely entertains. The rule when you see a snake is to kill it without asking where it came from. It is the duty of man to kill snakes. But it is also true that snakes do not kill men or harm them one time in a thousand opportunities. The Hindoos have a religion that forbids the killing of anything and

this includes snakes. They say that the snakes know this. That on a certain occasion a Hindoo was giving a garden party and he had music, and five large cobras came out of the tall grass and stood half way up and swayed to the music and had a good time, so that the music had to be quelled. The snakes would not go away from there until the music ceased. Every time you play the piano on the banks of the Greenbrier, there are retiring and unoffensive copperheads which wave their heads and tails in unison with the music. Does not that make you feel glad?

There is a musical instrument known as the French-harp, or mouth-organ. A person can take one of these and go anywhere in the rattlesnake woods and collect an audience of snakes. There is one remarkable case. (To be continued.)

HELP W. VA. FEED HERSELF

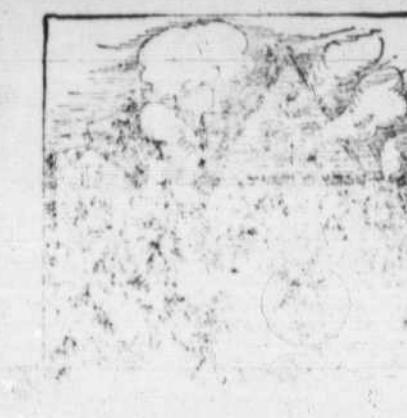
Every day's report from the National center indicates more and more the necessity of conserving every ounce of food produced. This year it is not only a question of canning and drying to help our country, but to have a supply for ourselves for this reason: The factories will not be able to produce much more canned goods, if any, than will be needed to supply the soldiers in the camps. That leaves the people at home without any canned stuff unless it is canned in the home, for it will be almost impossible to buy. So it is very important that the housekeeper can her winter's supply this summer, and begin right away. Cherries and raspberries were scarce but blackberries are beginning to ripen now and the best method for canning is as follows:

Select fresh berries of uniform ripeness and size. Place in colander or sieve and wash by pouring water over them rather than by putting them into a pan of water. Do not allow berries to soak in water because of loss of flavor. Drain. Make a syrup by adding 2 cups (1 pt.) sugar to 4 cups (2 pts.) boiling water; stir until dissolved. Bring to boiling point and allow to simmer not more than 3 minutes. Cool the syrup. This quantity of sugar and water will make enough syrup for from 3 to 4 quart jars of berries. When the syrup has cooled, add the berries. Hot syrup causes the berries to shrivel. Place the kettle of berries in a larger kettle of hot water or over a fire and heat slowly to simmering point. Do not boil, since this causes loss of color and injures flavor. Stir slightly with a wooden spoon so as to cover all the berries with the syrup, being careful not to crush them. When they have reached the simmering point, that is just before boiling, drain off the juice, pack berries closely in jars and add syrup. Be sure that no bubbles of air remain in the jar. A paddle or narrow stick made from hickory or bamboo may be used for removing air bubbles. Place rubber and lid on jar. If a glass lid is used, arrange upper spring in place. Do not clamp side spring. Is a screw lid is used, give one or two turns. Place false bottom in boiler and fill with sufficient warm water to reach necks of jars; the jars must be placed in the canner while the water is still warm, since putting them into hot water may cause them to break. Cook ten minutes after water begins to boil. Clamp side spring to prevent escape of more liquid by evaporation, and cook ten minutes longer. Remove from water. Store in a cool dry room away from light.

The beets in most gardens are ready to can now. Wash the young beets without bruising the skin, first cutting off the leaves. Save at least one inch of stem. Cook until skin will slip off easily; drain and cover with cold water. Push off the skins one at a time and pack the beets in jars. Add a teaspoonful salt to each quart and fill with water. Proceed as in canning berries until clamp is fastened or lid tightened, then cook continuously for 3 hours. If rubbers soften and slip out, change them 10 minutes before beets are done. The young beets may be used for baby food pickles by adding a dressing of 2 pts. vinegar, 2 cups brown sugar, 1 teaspoonful tumeric and mixed spices instead of water. The large beets may be canned with water as the liquid and then served with a sauce made from the liquid, or a butter dressing.

Points to remember when canning. 1. To clean glass jars, tin cans, lids, spoons, and other utensils used, wash in warm water and rinse thoroughly. 2. Dip rubbers in warm soda water to remove taste of rubber—proportion, 1 teaspoon soda to 1 pint of water. Do not place new rubbers or lids on jars without cleaning them. 3. Use new rubbers each season. 4. Test jars and lids. 5. Do not rub the tops of jars or the lids with a dish cloth after cleaning. 6. Do not begin canning in a room immediately after sweeping. At least two hours should be allowed for the dust to settle. 7. Observe cleanliness in the care of the clothing, the hands and the nails. 8. Do not allow a draft to strike glass jars upon removing them from the hot water. A clean cloth thrown over the jars for the first five minutes serves as a good protection from the cold air. Remove cloth at the end of that time jars may cool quickly. 9. As soon as cold, store cans in cool, dark dry place. 10. Do not attempt to can any fruit or vegetable that has become over ripe or has begun to decay. 11. Never can any fruit or vegetable that has been separated from the vine for several hours and has been allowed to wither. Do not allow vegetables to stand over night.

Any question concerning the canning or drying of fruits and vegetables will be gladly answered if addressed to the Emergency Home Demonstration Agent, Marlinton, W. Va.



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NORTH VERNON, INDIANA

Editor times: Please allow me space in your paper for a few lines. I was fourteen days by freight, and landed in southern Indiana on a 90 acre farm.

We have 30 acres of corn; have laid 10 acres corn by, it being from four to six feet high, this being some I planted early—would have planted more corn but was too dry to plow. Have two acres of tomatoes and one acre of beans. Have oats and buckwheat to harvest this week, and am plowing ten acres for late buckwheat. They sow buckwheat here about 25th of July.

This is a great country to raise vegetables. Some farmers raise from five to ten acres of tomatoes for the canner, bring about \$15 per ton, and from seven to ten tons per acre.

They also raise from one to five acres of tobacco. This will bring a good price this year if they have no bad luck. Prices will range from two to three hundred dollars per acre.

Thrashing has begun; wheat and rye is good. Cultivating corn and plowing for buckwheat is the order of the day. I like this country fine and land is cheap.

E. C. Allen,
R 4, North Vernon, Ind

BIRTHDAY SOCIAL

A very delightful evening was spent at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Kisner of Durbin, July 29th, in honor of their daughter Erna's eighth birthday. Those present were Leonard Graves, Delma Watts, Huston White, Misses Dollie Pane Hiner, Margaret Wilson, Virginia Hull, Virginia Hiner, Mary Wilson, Mildred Watts, Dallas Levisay, Freda Briggs, Elora Wilson, Mary Spindler, Lucretia White, Helen Hiner, Maledana Williams, Mrs. Luke Kisner, Mrs. Sam Williams. Games and music were provided for the guests after which refreshments were served.

Miss Betsy Price is spending some time at the home of the Misses Wallace at Millpoint.

Mrs. F. R. Hunter was at the home of her aunt Mrs. Mary McLaughlin last week.

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HERE'S PROOF

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Read it: J. H. Meadows, contractor, Upper Camden Ave., says: "I have used Doan's Kidney Pills off and on for quite awhile. I get them at the Marlinton Drug Store and I certainly recommend them. Whenever my back has been weak and lame or my kidneys have acted irregularly, I have used Doan's Kidney Pills. A box or so has never failed to cure me of an attack."

One Who Knows No Favor. A merciless judge is Father Time. Before him the weak and the wanting go to the wall. Only the truth can stand. For years the following statement from a Marlinton resident has withstood this sternest of all tests. W. A. Eskridge, painter, Tenth Ave., Marlinton, says: "My kidneys were inactive and the kidney secretions contained sediment. I had frequent backaches. When I got up in the morning, I was lame and sore across my hips. Doan's Kidney Pills promptly relieved me of the trouble and the soreness and lameness left. I no longer had any backache and my kidneys were strengthened." (Statement given in May, 1913).

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Marlinton, W. Va.
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Attorney-at-Law,
Marlinton, W. Va.
Will practice in the courts of Pocahontas and Greenbrier counties, and in the Supreme Court of Appeals.

F. RAYMOND HILL,
Attorney-at-Law,
Marlinton, W. Va.
Will practice in the courts of Pocahontas and Greenbrier counties, and in the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.

ANDREW PRICE,
Attorney-at-Law,
Marlinton, W. Va.

W. A. BRATTON,
Attorney-at-Law,
Marlinton, W. Va.
Prompt and careful attention given to all legal business.

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Attorney-at-Law,
Marlinton, W. Va.
Will practice in the courts of Pocahontas and adjoining counties, and in the Court of Appeals of the state of West Virginia.

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Attorney-at-Law,
Marlinton, W. Va.
Will practice in the courts of Pocahontas and adjoining counties and in the Supreme Court of Appeals.

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